GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3259
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
TELEPHONES TO GRAM PANCHAYATS
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephones have been provided to all Gram Panchayats in Andhra circle;

(b) if so, the number of Panchayats covered so far and those yet to be covered, district-wise;

(c) the time by which telephone facilities to all the Gram Panchayats are likely to be provided; and

(d) the budgetary allocation made for this purpose in 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the amount actually spent?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) 18,264 Gram Panchayats have been provided with telephone facility and 1,269 Gram Panchayats are yet to be provided with telephone facility. The Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise details is given in Annexure-I.

(c) The office o f the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has signed agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) on 10-11-2004 for extending subsidy towards the provision of Village Public Telephones in the remaining uncovered villages in Andhra Pradesh. This excludes villages which are depopulated, naxalite/insurgency infested, having population of less than hundred persons and those lying in deep forest areas. These villages shall be provided with VPTs in a phased manner by November, 2007.

(d) The subsidy support provided from USO Fund for the existing VPTs for various activities in Andhra Pradesh is given in Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise list of Village Panchayats provided with telephone facility and yet to be provided with telephone facility in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of Secondary Switching Area (SSA)	No. of Panchayats provided with telephone facility	No. of Panchayats yet to be provided with telephone facility
1.	Adilabad	629	97
2.	Anantapur	823	42
3.	Chittoor	1144	148
4.	Cuddapah	715	26
5.	East Godavari	869	67
6.	Guntur	959	0
7	Karim Nagar	988	63
8.	Khammam	575	33

9.	Krishna	933	0
10.	Kurnool	811	10
11.	Mahabubnagar	1092	12
12.	Medak	791	18
13.	Nalgonda	968	43
14.	Nellore	900	42
15.	Nizamabad	553	68
16.	Prakasam	897	58
17.	Rangareddy	581	02
18.	Srikakulam	985	79
19.	Visakhapatnam	724	205
20.	Vizianagaram	832	57
21.	Warangal	686	198
22.	West Godavari	809	01
Total:	18264	1269	

ANNEXURE-II

Subsidy support for Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund for Village Public Telephones in Andhra Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Subsidy Disbursed (Rs. in crore)	
		2003-04	2004-05 up to 28-02-2005
1.	Operation and Maintenance of VPTs	2.48	3.50
2.	Replacement of Multi-Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs	0.21	5.76
	Total:	2.69	9.26